

PCT

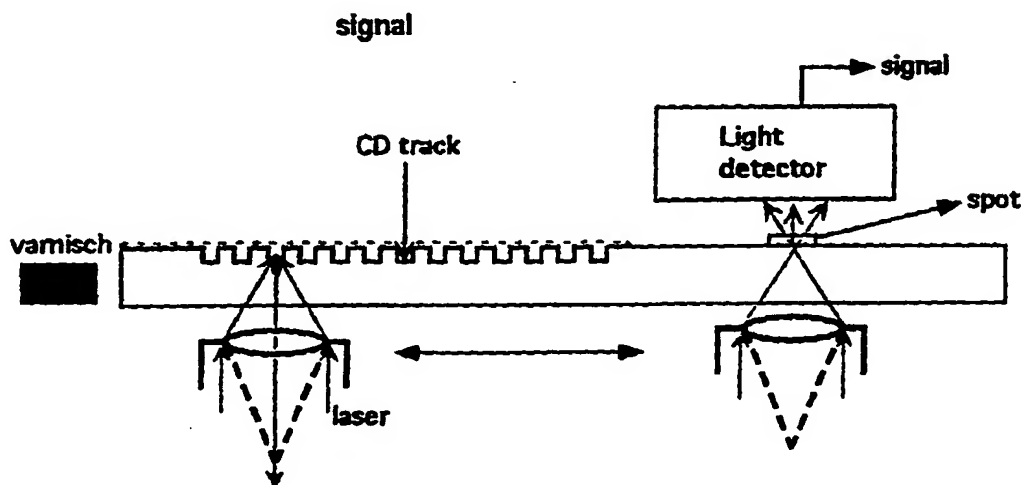
WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

<p>(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : G01N 33/543, C12Q 1/68</p>	<p>A1</p>	<p>(11) International Publication Number: WO 99/35499 (43) International Publication Date: 15 July 1999 (15.07.99)</p>
<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/BE98/00206 (22) International Filing Date: 24 December 1998 (24.12.98) (30) Priority Data: 60/071,726 30 December 1997 (30.12.97) US (71)(72) Applicant and Inventor: REMACLE, José [BE/BE]; Chemin des Pierres 14, B-5020 Malonne (BE). (74) Agents: VAN MALDEREN, Eric et al.; Office Van Malderen, Place Reine Fabiola 6/1, B-1083 Brussels (BE).</p>	<p>(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AU, BA, BB, BG, BR, CA, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DE (Utility model), EE, GD, GE, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KP, KR, LC, LK, LR, LT, LV, MG, MK, MN, MX, NO, NZ, PL, RO, SG, SI, SK, SL, TR, TT, UA, US, UZ, VN, YU, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).</p> <p>Published <i>With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i></p>	

(54) Title: METHOD COMPRISING CAPTURE MOLECULE FIXED ON DISC SURFACE



(57) Abstract

The present invention is related to a method for the detection and/or the quantification of a target molecule by its binding with a non-cleavable capture molecule fixed on the surface of a disc comprising registered data. The present invention is also related to a disc having fixed upon its surface a non-cleavable capture molecule, to its preparation process, and to a diagnostic and/or reading device of said disc or comprising said disc.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AL	Albania	ES	Spain	LS	Lesotho	SI	Slovenia
AM	Armenia	FI	Finland	LT	Lithuania	SK	Slovakia
AT	Austria	FR	France	LU	Luxembourg	SN	Senegal
AU	Australia	GA	Gabon	LV	Latvia	SZ	Swaziland
AZ	Azerbaijan	GB	United Kingdom	MC	Monaco	TD	Chad
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	GE	Georgia	MD	Republic of Moldova	TG	Togo
BB	Barbados	GH	Ghana	MG	Madagascar	TJ	Tajikistan
BE	Belgium	GN	Guinea	MK	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	TM	Turkmenistan
BF	Burkina Faso	GR	Greece	ML	Mali	TR	Turkey
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary	MN	Mongolia	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
BJ	Benin	IE	Ireland	MR	Mauritania	UA	Ukraine
BR	Brazil	IL	Israel	MW	Malawi	UG	Uganda
BY	Belarus	IS	Iceland	MX	Mexico	US	United States of America
CA	Canada	IT	Italy	NE	Niger	UZ	Uzbekistan
CF	Central African Republic	JP	Japan	NL	Netherlands	VN	Viet Nam
CG	Congo	KE	Kenya	NO	Norway	YU	Yugoslavia
CH	Switzerland	KG	Kyrgyzstan	NZ	New Zealand	ZW	Zimbabwe
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	PL	Poland		
CM	Cameroon	KR	Republic of Korea	PT	Portugal		
CN	China	KZ	Kazakstan	RO	Romania		
CU	Cuba	LC	Saint Lucia	RU	Russian Federation		
CZ	Czech Republic	LI	Liechtenstein	SD	Sudan		
DE	Germany	LK	Sri Lanka	SE	Sweden		
DK	Denmark	LR	Liberia	SG	Singapore		
EE	Estonia						

5

METHOD COMPRISING CAPTURE MOLECULE FIXED ON DISC SURFACE

10

Field of the invention

The present invention is related to a
15 detection and/or quantification method of a target molecule
by its binding with a capture molecule fixed on the surface
of a disc.

The present invention is also related to a
disc having fixed upon its surface a non-cleavable capture
20 molecule, to its preparation process, and to a diagnostic
and/or reading device of said disc or comprising said disc.

Background of the invention

The complete detection process of a target
25 molecule (like a nucleotide sequence obtained from a
microorganism) requires the steps of :

- possibly a preparation of the sample,
- possibly an amplification of the "purified" molecule,
- a binding of said molecule on a "capture" molecule (i.e.
30 sequence or receptor) preferably fixed on a solid
support,

- its labeling, and finally
- the analysis of the obtained signal from said labeling.

Therefore, it exists a need for a possibly simplified automatic device and method that could perform
5 several (or possibly all) of these steps, especially the analysis of the obtained signal, and could discriminate among a large number of complex molecules the specific molecule or microorganism to be detected.

The search for miniaturization of molecules
10 binding on a determined small surface and identification of their location led to the use of microelectronic circuits for the construction of network designed as DNA-chips (US patent 5 632 957, US patent 5 605 662 and WO94/22889).

Another approach for the analysis of great
15 numbers of biological molecules is the biochips. These biological molecules can be formed either by direct synthesis of capture molecules on the surface of biochips (WO97/29212) or by fixation of these capture molecules after their synthesis or isolation (WO98/28444). One of the
20 drawbacks of said technology is the use of complicated and expensive instrumentation for reading out very low signals. In addition, this instrumentation should comprise specific software for the identification of the localization of the spots and for the integration of said signals when
25 quantitative assays have to be performed.

Electronic devices can control the transport and attachment of specific binding entities like captured oligonucleotides or antibodies into specific micro-locations in order to make chips self addressable devices.
30 For the fixation of molecules, one micro-electrode is positively charged to attract oligonucleotides on its surface. After binding with target molecules like DNA or

antigens, detection is performed using epifluorescent type microscopic detection system for the localization of the microelectrode on which target molecules have been bound.

Said technique has been adapted for DNA
5 binding proteins attached to substrates so as to form a network on this substrate resulting in a microcircuit (US patent 5,561,071).

However, there is a limit in the number of captured molecules that can be used due to the fact that
10 they have to fix such capture molecules one by one on each of the micro-electrodes of the device. The other limitation is the resolution obtained in the discrimination between signals coming from adjacent electrodes, due to the dispersion of the emitted signal. Finally, the emission
15 signal has to be analyzed and interpreted before being processed.

Therefore, it is necessary to provide upon a solid support an increased number of "capture molecules" in order to allow the identification and/or the quantification
20 of specific target molecules, target microorganisms or portions thereof. However, classical detection supports and means can not be easily adapted for such applications, because they are limited by the number of "capture molecules" they may include, the discrimination between the
25 signals and the specificity or reproducibility of the assay (see US 5 567 294). Moreover, the reading machines are too sophisticated and expensive.

The document WO98/01533 describes a cleavable signal element comprising a cleavable spacer having a
30 substrate-attaching end (which can be a compact-disk), a signal-responsive end (which can be linked to a metallic beads, especially gold beads), and a first side member

adapted to bind a first site on a chosen analyte and a second side member adapted to bind a second site of said chosen analyte. The signal is measured when the analyte is fixed upon the first side member and the second side member. Thereafter, the spacer is cleaved and the fixation of the analyte allows the detection of a positive signal.

However, this complex and expensive detection method and device is submitted to various false positives or false negatives in the detection of various complex analytes, which could develop various interactions with said cleavable signal elements.

Summary of the invention

The present invention is related to a method for the detection and/or the quantification of a target molecule as described in the claims.

The present invention is also related to a disc having fixed upon its surface a non-cleavable capture molecule as described in the claims, and which can be used in the detection and/or quantification method according to the invention.

Another aspect of the present invention is related to a preparation process of said disc, a diagnostic kit comprising said disc, a diagnostic and reading device comprising said disc or a diagnostic and reading device which allows the reading and the analysis of the data present upon the disc according to the invention.

Technical characteristics of the "disc"

By the term "disc" is meant a flat solid support (usually in the form of a disc) which comprises a hole that allows its rotation according to an axis (A)

which is located in the center of said hole), made in a rigid material comprising usually one or more polymer layers and which can be covered by one or more metal layers (like gold or aluminum thin layers) so as to allow
5 penetration and reflection of a light beam, preferably a laser beam, which is used for the detection and the reading of pre-registered data upon said disc (see Fig. 1).

The configuration of said polymeric and metallic layers is prepared in order to allow the
10 penetration and the reflection of the laser beam only upon selected layers. For instance, the disc may comprise a superior layer that allows the penetration of the laser beam, which will be reflected only by a second lower metallic layer.

15 The definition of a "disc" includes any solid support such as a CD or a "DVD" which comprises data than can be read by a CD-reading device (by penetration and reflection of a laser beam).

It is meant by "data than can be read by a
20 CD-reading device", possibly registered data (i.e. about the characteristics of capture molecules upon specific areas of said solid support) or data used for the treatment of a signal which is the result of a binding between a target and a capture molecules.

25 One or more sections of a disc such as a compact-disc are dedicated to data processing by standard read/write digital technology (CD tracks; see Figs. 3 to 5 and 7). Specific data for processing and analysis are recorded on the compact-disc surface using digital
30 recording means. In additional preferred embodiments, read-only memory (ROM) on the disk comprises compact-disc information, instructions, experimental protocols, data

analysis and statistical methods that can be accessed by a user operating the disk and recording of the binding location and result between the capture and target molecules.

5 Additionally, the disc may contain electronic circuitry, including microprocessors for coordination of disc functions, and devices for communication with the disc manipulation and/or reading device or other devices. The disc optimally comprises detectors and sensors, or
10 components of these devices and energy sources for various detection schemes (such as electric power supplies for electrochemical systems, electromagnetic radiation sources for spectroscopic systems), or materials, such as optically-transparent materials, that facilitate operation
15 of and data generation using such detectors and sensors, actuators, communications and data handling devices, mediating communications between the disc and the player/reader device, using electromagnetic (laser, infra-red, radiofrequency, microwave), electrical, or other
20 means; circuitry designed for controlling procedures and processes on the disk, including systems diagnostics, assays protocols and analysis of assay data. These are provided in the form of ASICs or ROM which are programmed only at the point-of-manufacture; FGPA's EPROM, flash
25 memory (UV-erasable EPROM), or programmable IC arrays, or similar arrays programmable by the user through the platform manipulation device or other device. Also included in the components of the invention are CPU and microprocessor units and associated RAM operating with an
30 assembler language or high-level language programmable through disk communications, and components for mediating communication with other devices, including facsimile/modem

communications with remote display or data analysis systems.

One remarkable aspect of the disc according to the invention is the density of the microscopic array of possibly pre-registered data patterns embedded within the disc materials. It is an optical storage using a laser beam to detect impressions in the surface of the reflective disc. The ability to compress data to such a fine degree and read it back accurately gives the disc according to the invention one of its defining characteristics, the capability of storing huge amounts of data (for a compact-disc of audio data, the amount of storing is around 650 MB of data).

The disc according to the invention could be adapted for the penetration and refraction of various laser beams upon various polymeric or metallic layers.

For example, laser devices used for emission of a laser beam and detection of a reflected laser beam may advantageously comprise a hologram disposed between the disc and a photometre.

The disc is in general of 1.2 mm thick and 4.72 inches in diameter, but smaller supports also exist and could be adapted for specific applications (such as binding between a capture and a target molecules into a Petri dish), and the thickness can be adapted according to the technical requirements of the capture molecule and the detection method of the invention used.

The disc can incorporate grooves to conduct the lecture by a laser beam. In said grooves are incorporated "registered" data that can be thereafter analyzed and advantageously transcribed into digital data. Preferably, said registered data are in the form of binary

information. Preferably, these grooves will also comprise fixed non-cleavable capture molecules.

Through its intensive and narrowly focused beam, the laser provides means for precise detection and registration of the passage of thousands of tiny impressions upon the rapidly spinning disc surface. Said detection process generates no friction since the detection is based on the measurement of phase shifts in reflected light. This technique allows the detection of considerable data compaction, since the carefully focused laser beam is able to respond at the speed of the light to extremely small variations in the disc surface.

Light derived from typically natural or artificial sources consists of photons that move in random wave patterns, even when they originate from light beams of the same frequency. Light beams of this sort are considered incoherent, meaning the waves travel in all directions. In comparison, the light associated with lasers is advantageously considered coherent.

A laser beam is created when a source of energy is introduced into what is called an *active medium*. A pair of mirrors positioned on each sides of an active medium are used to channel a portion of the radiation that strikes it. The active medium can consist of a gaseous mix (such as helium and neon) or ions within a crystalline matrix (such as found in the gallium-arsenide lasers typically used in compact-disc (CD) drives and recorders). The materials and the energy source used to stimulate the light determine the strength and intensity of the resulting beam. The lasers used within CD-equipment are usually of extremely low power.

The CD drive laser is directed at the spinning disc and the reflected light passes through a lens and strikes a photodiode (see Figs. 3 to 5). Data on the disc surface is encoded in the form of pits (indentations
5 in the disc) and lands (the surface of the disc) or disc tracks.

Logic timing circuits coupled to the photodiode can register the difference between the distance the light has traveled (when it strikes the disc surface)
10 and the distance it has traveled (when it strikes an indentation in the disc surface). This difference is detected as a phase shift in the light beam.

As with all digital coded information, the pattern composed of successive pits and lands - relayed as
15 an electronic string of 1's and 0's by the photodiode - can represent much more complex analog equivalents, such as for the present case, the level of the binding between a target and its capture molecule. This information illustrated as pits present on the surface of the disc according to the
20 invention is the result of the binding between the "capture" and "target" molecules.

The disc according to the invention having fixed upon its surface the capture molecule may comprise a protective layer possibly made of organic compounds which
25 allow or improve protection and stabilization of "capture" molecules such as a layer made of proteinic and/or saccharidic compounds like albumin, disaccharides (such as trehalose, etc.).

The composition of such a layer is adapted by
30 the person skilled in the art according to the specific capture molecule used. If necessary, such composition can be adapted in order to allow the laser beam to read through

said layer without difficulty and to detect the binding between a "target" molecule and its "capture" molecule or the result of said binding. If necessary, said layer may be omitted before or after the binding between capture and
5 target molecules.

To successfully communicate by means of nothing than a series of pits in a disc requires computer processing and some already available high-technology wizardry. At no point does the laser's read mechanism ever
10 touch the disc surface; all data is preferably conveyed by reflections of the laser. In a normal audio CD, the laser beam takes a certain amount of time to return when it is reflected off the lands, but it takes longer to travel if it is swallowed up and reflected by pits. The depth of the
15 pit is engineered to be $1/4$ the wavelength of the laser light. If the reflected beam from the pit cancels out the beam from the land, a signal transition is obtained. Signal transitions (signaled by the beginning or end of a pit) represent binary 1's. If there is no signal transition,
20 this indicates a binary 0.

One particular feature of commercial CD-drives is their property to read such pits and deliver data at unpriseve 900 Kb/sec, making this laser reflector technology particularly suitable for the reading not only
25 of the registered pits but also the result of the binding.

To maintain synchronization while reading the data patterns, the CD drive uses self-clocking mechanism that is commonly found in hard disk drives, which is called-
Run Length Limited. Because data exists within finite
30 divisions on the spiral track, each data division extends approximately 300 nanometers, the CD-microcontroller can produce regular clock signals by synchronizing to the speed

of the disc rotation and the occurrences of transitions. Although many forms of data storage use a 8-bit sequence for storing data bytes, the normal CD requires a 14-bit pattern to avoid creating combinations of 1's and 0's that
5 would prevent decoding of the stored data. This modified form of storage is called EFM (Eight-to-Fourteen Modulation). An additional 3 bits called *merging bits* act as separator between the 14-bit part, resulting in a 17-bit pattern to represent a single 8-bit byte of data.

10 Another significant division of data at the bit level is the *frame*, which consists of 588 bits. The frame encompasses a collection of bits : some of them signify data, others allow the laser to be synchronized with the spinning of the disc and still others contribute
15 to the error-correcting capabilities within the CD equipment. Of this collection of bits only twenty-four 17-bit units (408 bits altogether) can be translated into 8-bits bytes. Many additional bits are needed to convey the information contained in a mere two-dozen data bytes.

20 The disc according to the invention can be in any "external" shape form. As above-mentioned, the form of said disc is preferably circular or elliptic, but its external shape form may be for instance hexagonal, octagonal, in the form of a square or a triangle which
25 allows the rotation of said disc along a central axis (A).

The disc according to the invention may correspond to the standards of CD-ROM XA, CD-DVD, audio CD, CD-ROM, CD-I, recordable CD and photo or video CD (CD-ROM and CD-I bridge), etc. Said CD standard may differ
30 according to the type of data storage, accuracy and amount of information.

Specific areas of the disc according to the invention can be dedicated to the reading of the reaction that is the result of the binding between the target and the capture molecules. These specific areas are parts of the disc surface according to the invention or an area of the disc on which a second material is fixed and whose surface comprises the capture molecules. These areas can be a cavity in the disc. Said second material is a strip of plastic upon which the binding between the target and the capture molecules has already been performed and which is thereafter fixed upon the disc for its specific reading.

Advantageously, each strip can be loaded with several different capture molecules that will react specifically with the same sample or different samples to be analyzed. Thereafter, the signal can be read individually or simultaneously upon the same disc. A classical disc like a compact-disc could be able to handle 20 or more of such strips.

Preferred embodiments that are most advantageous for manufacturing and operation of the compact-disc of the invention have dimensions within one or more of four pre-existing formats :

- 3-inch compact disk (CD), having a radius of about 3.8 cm and thickness of about 1 mm,
- 25 - 5-inch CD, having a radius of about 6 cm and a thickness of 1 mm,
- 8-inch CDV (commercially termed a "Laservision" disk), having a radius of 10 cm and a thickness of 2 mm, and
- 12-inch CDV disk, having a radius of 15 cm and a thickness of 2 mm.

The lifespan of data stored on a magnetic tape when covered by ranges from about 6 to 12 years. Estimates for recordable compact-disc lifespans generally suggest a century of stable data storage.

5 The lifespan of the specific disc according to the invention is shorter and usually limited by the metal corrosion and the possible denaturation of the capture molecule fixed upon the solid surface. The data stored on CD may exist in the familiar concentric circles
10 (referred to as tracks) of the hard disk drive world or in a continuous spiral like the phonograph records of days past.

One particular property of the compact-disc and its encoded information is the tracking system.
15 Different systems exist in commercially available CD-recorders in order to control the movement of the entire optical pick up in it, radially across the disc, and to search for any one of up to 20000 different radial tracks present on the CD. Said technique can be advantageously
20 adapted for the reading of the signal that is the result of the binding between the target and the capture molecules. The reading of the signal and the reading of the pre-registered information can be done by the same device or by two different reading devices, which can be the same laser
25 beam reading device or two laser beam reading devices.

The correction of the radial tracking (identification of a binding upon a capture molecule by a light beam) is performed by using specific systems, as the one described in the publication The CD-ROM Handbook, 2d
30 Ed. (Chris Sherman Editor, Intertext Publication, McGraw-Hill Inc.). The CD-drives also use special device

servomechanisms in order to position the laser's reading head.

Preferably, the disc incorporates microfabricated mechanical and/or optical control components on platforms made from, for example, plastic, silica, quartz, metal or ceramic and/or microchannels as described in the document WO97/21090. For the purposes of this invention, the term "microfabricated" refers to processes that allow production of these structures on the sub-millimeter scale. These processes include but are not restricted to photolithography, etching, stamping and other nano or microtechnological means that are familiar to those skilled in the art.

Additional descriptions of a CD solid support are given in the following publications: The CD-ROM Handbook, 2d Ed. (Chris Sherman Editor, Intertext Publication, McGraw-Hill Inc.), The Complete Recordable CD Guide (Lee Purcell & David Martin, Sybex Editions), Digital Audio and Compact-disc Technology, 2d Ed. (Luc Bart, Luc Theunissen and Guido Vergult, Sony Service Center Europe, Ed. BH Newnes).

"Target" molecules and "capture" molecules

"Target" and "capture" molecules can be any kind of biological and chemical compounds, which are able to create a binding (or a specific fixation) between each other, said binding or the result of said binding can be detected by a reading device, preferably by using a light-beam, preferably a laser beam.

Preferably, said "target" molecule is present in a sample selected from the group consisting of blood,

urine, cerebrospinal fluid, plasma, saliva, semen, amniotic fluid, air, water, soil or disrupted biological matter.

Preferably, said "target" and non-cleavable "capture" molecules are synthetic or natural molecules
5 selected from the group consisting of nucleic acids, antibodies, saccharides, lipids, peptides, proteins, lectins, catalysts, receptors, agonists or antagonists of receptors, fluorophores, chromophores, chelates, haptens, ions, molecules having different chiral structures, new
10 synthetic chemical macro-molecules obtained by combinatorial chemistry or other functionalized macrostructures, portions or a combination thereof.

A "non-cleavable capture molecule" means a molecule that does not comprise and need a cleavable spacer
15 as described in the document WO98/01533, to allow or to permit the detection of the binding between a target molecule (or analyte) and a capture molecule. According to the invention, the simple binding between a target and a capture molecules allows thereafter the formation of a
20 signal that was not previously present and that can be detected directly or indirectly by a reading device using a light beam, preferably a laser beam, without requiring any specific cleavage of the capture molecule.

The target or the non-cleavable capture
25 molecules according to the invention are advantageously detected and/or quantified in order to obtain the monitoring, the study and the characteristic behaviors of pathogenic, therapeutical, toxic and/or other improved properties of a target molecule.

30 The antigens/antibodies binding allows antigens or antibodies detection and are used in diagnostic tests based upon RIA and ELISA detection methods. The

ligands/receptors have mainly been developed in pharmacological research for the screening of new molecules (agonists, antagonists or reverse agonists of receptors). Nucleotidic sequences detection has been highly developed
5 through the increased knowledge of the sequence of numerous genes and the development of amplification, hybridization, separation and purification techniques (see, e.g. J. Sambrook, E.F. Fritsch and T. Maniatis, Molecular cloning: laboratory manual, 2nd Ed. Cold Spring, Harbor Laboratory
10 Press, Cold Spring Harbor, New York, 1989).

A first popular detection and amplification method of nucleotide sequences comprises the step of a Polymerase Chain Binding (PCR) (US patents 4,683,195 and 4,683,202) or other amplifications, such as the Ligase
15 Chain Binding (LCR) (Wu and Wallace, 1989, Genomics 4: 560-569), transcription based amplification systems (Kwoh et al. 1989, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 86: 1173-1177) or Cycling Probe Binding (CPR) (Duck et al., 1990, Biotechniques 9: 142-147 and US patent 5,011,769).

20 Nucleotide sequences detection, quantification and recording by signal of said detection and/or quantification, is obtained after the hybridization of a nucleotide sequence on a capture probe (either by a single or sandwich hybridization) and with the labeling of
25 one of the sequences which give rise to a detection signal, the changes of which can be recorded by the reading device according to the invention.

Many detection methods have been applied to DNA sequences (detected by their own absorbance at 260 nm
30 or by their fluorescence in the presence of ethidium bromide). The use of radioactive labeling like ^{32}p incorporated into the nucleotidic sequences allows a

sensitive detection, but is not recommended for routine assays due to improved safety constraint legislations.

In addition, nucleotide sequences can be labeled by molecules (for example fluoresceine, rhodamine, 5 ruthenium or lanthanide chelate which can be directly detected) or labeled in such a way as to bind enzyme conjugate. A labeling is obtained with the use of biotin or an hapten and an enzyme conjugated to streptavidine or a corresponding antibody. Advantageously, different signals 10 can be obtained according to the product of the binding. For example, peroxidase and alkaline phosphatase give a colored product with the use of TMB (Tetramethylbenzidine) or 5 bromo-4 chloro-3-indolyl-phosphate as substrate. A light emission can be obtained with the use of luminol or 15 AMPPD (3-(2'-spiroadamantane)-4-methoxy-4(3'-phosphoryloxy) 1,2 dioxethane) as substrates.

The DAB (Diaminobenzidine) can be transformed into an insoluble product after oxidation by a peroxidase catalyzed binding. Pyruvate kinase can also be used for the 20 production of ATP which is transformed by luciferase in order to obtain a detected light (bioluminescence detection method).

Advantageously, new technologies like plasmon surface resonance or optical waveguides may be used for the 25 detection of non-labeled target molecules binding and the follow-up of binding kinetic (Gotoh and all. 1995, DNA Res. 2: 285-293, Stimpson et al. 1995, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA: 92, 6379-6383).

Fixation of the non-cleavable capture molecule upon the surface of the compact-disc

The non-cleavable capture molecules are preferably fixed at specific intervals on a CD in order to
5 allow specific discrimination between each binding made between a specific non-cleavable capture molecule and its target molecule by a light beam detection device or another device. For specific detection, it is preferred that the capture molecules are located in a specific area of the
10 disc which does not comprise any groove or pre-registered information in order to avoid any false positive which can be the result of a signal upon pre-registered information.

The location of the non-cleavable "capture" molecule on the external surface of the compact-disc can be
15 addressed by conventional physical methods using microlithographic and/or micromachining techniques of incubation which will maintain the non-cleavable capture molecules at certain locations where they will be fixed. An alternative method is obtained by using photoactivable
20 chemical groups which allow the fixation of non-cleavable capture molecules at specific treated locations, such as a portion of said external surface, treated by a light beam (such as a focused laser beam) or treated by selective ion beam or selective plasma treatment (see document
25 WO96/15223).

Advantageously, the external surface of the compact-disc according to the invention also contains data which allows the disc to be read in an laser-based CD-reader (information usually stored as a series of pits
30 located in the disc grooves and which are necessary to localize the non-cleavable capture molecule on the surface of the disc). This can be obtained through the presence of

appropriated pits or protruding indentations equivalent to the pits in the disc grooves. The addressing (fixation) of the non-cleavable capture molecule on the surface is best obtained using such data and using a laser beam which is
5 part of the overall device and if possible the same laser beam source used for reading the CD information.

The fixation of non-cleavable capture molecules on the disc is obtained using conventional methods based either on covalent or non-covalent bindings.
10 The preferred embodiment is the covalent fixation at one of the molecule extremity, which allows a stable fixation and an homogeneity in the non-cleavable capture molecule presentation at the surface for the binding to the target molecule.

15 A photoactivable chemical group like azido-nitrophenyl which can be fixed at the extremities of any molecule bearing a free amino group by using for instance heterobifunctional reagent like sulfosuccinimidyl 6-(4'-Azido-2'- Nitrophenylamino hexanoate (Pierce, Rockford, IL,
20 USA). Such a photoactivable group will react only at the place of illumination such as a laser beam (Dontha, N. et al. 1997, Anal. Chem. 69: 2619-2625) and in this way the fixation of a specific probe can be well address on the disc. Other chemical fixations exist like the 5' -
25 Phosphate end group fixation of nucleic acid on the amine by carbodiimide or trapping in polypyrrol polymers. Polymeric surfaces can be carboxylated and aminated in order to allow the fixation of most of the biological molecules through bindings well known in organic chemistry
30 (Zammatteo et al. 1996, Anal. Biochem. 236: 85-94).

One particular way to physically address the capture probe is to take advantage of the centripetal force

arising from the rotation of the disc. The liquid is projected through inlet pits to enter the disc and then conveyed through microchannels until binding chambers (see International Patent Application WO97/21090).

5

Binding between non-cleavable "capture" and "target" molecules

The binding (or fixation) of the target molecule upon its non-cleavable capture molecule is
10 obtained in standard and reproducible conditions which are now well known either for the nucleotide hybridization (hybridization preferably under standard stringent conditions such as the one described by Sambrook et al., §§ 9.31-9.58 in *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual*,
15 Cold Spring Harbor, Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, New York (1989)), for the antigen/antibody bindings, for the receptor/ligand binding or other molecules interactions like protein/nucleotides or chemical/chemical molecules recognition.

20 Preferably, said molecules contain (either by nature or per modification) a functional chemical group (primary amine, sulfhydryl, aldehyde, etc.), a common sequence (nucleic acids), an epitope (antibodies), a hapten or a ligand group, to allow said binding.

25 The binding between the target molecule and its non-cleavable capture molecule may depend on the specific affinity of the molecules, on the allosteric properties of each molecule, on their ionic environment, on the ionic charge of the molecule and the possible covalent
30 reaction between the target and its non-cleavable capture molecule. Preferably, said conditions are the ones already described in the literature for each type of binding, and

can be adapted by the person skilled in the art in order to avoid positive or negative false detections.

Preferably, the optical detection system which can read said binding may comprise a photo-diode
5 which can detect a small light beam and which moves according to a one dimension axe so as to cover the radius of the disc (see Fig. 4). Combined with the rotation of the disc, such focused photo-detection scans the entire surface of the disc and so to assay for the target molecule present
10 at any location on the disc. The preferred detection device is the photo-diode of the commercially available CD readers which are used for music, video or software CD (see Fig. 5).

The photo system can be servocontrolled in
15 order to stay in focus to the detection surface. If a second optical detection system is provided for the detection of the signal, it can also be servocontrolled or linked to the other one for its control, or it may receive from the first one data in order to adjust its focus and
20 its tracks to the disc. The data received from the consecutive reading of the disc surface can also be stored in a computer, reformed if necessary and analyzed for the definition of spots localization.

The photometric signal is obtained once the
25 binding between the target molecule and its non-cleavable capture molecule allows the formation of a photometric signal. Advantageously, the detection and/or the quantification of said binding (binding of the target molecule to its non-cleavable capture molecule) is based
30 upon the principle of CD binary detection system using the variation in the laser beam reflection. A perturbation in

the laser reflection is obtained when the laser beam detects in the groove a pit.

According to a first embodiment of the present invention, said pit is advantageously a precipitate
5 which is a result of the binding between the target and the non-cleavable capture molecules.

According to another preferred embodiment, a perturbation in the laser reflection can also be obtained by a corrosive attack upon one or several layers of the
10 compact-disc. For instance, the binding between the target molecule and its non-cleavable capture molecule may provoke a limited modification of the layer which will form an indentation in said layer (see Fig. 3). Such indentations in the layer are usually called "mounds" or "bumps", but
15 are also identified as negative pits (see document Recordable CD Guide, Lee Purcell & David Martin, Sybex Editions). These perturbations will be detected by the laser beam as pits which differ from lands. The binding between the target molecule and its non-cleavable capture
20 molecule can also be detected and quantified directly by a light emission obtained only when said binding takes place.

According to another preferred embodiment of the present invention, the binding of the target molecule upon its non-cleavable capture molecule allows the fixation
25 of one or other molecules which produce a light emission through a chemo, bio, fluoro and/or electroluminescence light system or will create a magnetic and/or electric field which could be detected by specific reading devices 7
(see Fig. 1 and 4).

30 These systems can be based upon the use of specific enzymes (peroxidase, alkaline phosphatase,

pyruvate kinase, etc.) which allow or improve light emission and detection.

One may use a labeled target molecule 6 or a second labeled reactive molecule once the target molecule is captured. This labeled molecule can be the first member of a binding pair such as nucleic acid 2 in a sandwich hybridization assay, using biotin 1 or hapten labeled probes and similarly in an antibody/antigen sandwich binding using similar labeled reactive molecules. After a washing step, the biotin or hapten can react with an enzyme-conjugate streptavidine or antibodies which are then considered as the second member of the binding pair. Enzymes such as peroxidase, alkaline phosphatase, pyruvate kinase or other dehydrogenases can be used.

One selects specific substrate for said enzymes in order to obtain an insoluble product. For example DAB can be oxidized in the presence of peroxidase and form an insoluble product. This product will precipitate upon the non-cleavable capture molecule, and such precipitate will form limbs or mounds on the surface of the disc according to the disc face that will be illuminated by the (laser) beam. The reflected (laser) beam intensity will be lowered when illuminating the precipitate and a perturbation in the (laser) reflection can be obtained. Such a perturbation is analyzed by the photosensitive detection device as a pit upon the surface of the disc.

If detected by light transmission through a transparent part of the disc, the presence of the precipitate will show an absorbance that can be measured.

Another insoluble product is obtained when colloidal metal light gold is used, for example bound to

streptavidin 3. The colloidal gold catalyzes the reduction of silver (Ag) 4 to form Ag-precipitate when the binding is obtained. Silver deposit can either reduce a (laser) light beam reflection compared to gold or aluminum layers usually
5 present on a disc 5 and can also reflect some of the light if no other metal is present. This precipitate being opaque to the light can also be detected by absorption of the light in a transmission assay through the disc (see Figs. 2 and 6).

10 It is also possible to use microbeads which bear binding molecules (second binding pair) which allow the recognition of a first binding pair attached to the target molecule. These microbeads will be located at the surface of the disc where the binding of the target
15 molecule and its non-cleavable capture molecule has been obtained. These beads will diffract the (laser) light beam and will create a perturbation in the (laser) reflection. These perturbations in the (laser) reflection will be detected by the photosensitive detection device and
20 analyzed as the pits upon the surface of the disc.

According to another embodiment of the present invention, the detection is obtained by a labeling of the target molecule (with a fluorescent molecule). The (laser) light beam will scan the compact-disc surface and
25 analyze the fluorescence recorded. Many fluorescent molecules associated with the target molecule are available, like fluoresceine, phycoerythrine, rhodamine or lanthanide chelates, which can be easily labeled upon nucleic acids, antibodies or microbeads for a direct or
30 indirect labeling of the target molecule.

The recorded signal can be read either as a binary signal or as an absolute value. The binary signal is

advantageously quickly processed as an electronic computerized data and analyzed by appropriate software. This software will convert this information into data which can analyze the detection obtained and quantify the binding
5 between the target molecule and its non-cleavable capture molecule.

Preferably, the disc according to the invention may comprise additional pits, preferably in the groove adjacent to the non-cleavable capture molecule,
10 which give information about the type, the quantity and the specificity of said adjacent non-cleavable capture molecule.

According to a specific embodiment of the present invention, the disc according to the invention
15 bears a fixed oligonucleotide capture probe so as to allow a detection, amplification and possibly quantification of a nucleic acid sequence upon a same solid support (the surface of the disc according to the invention). In an alternative form of execution, the disc comprises fixed PCR
20 primer in order to obtain the production of amplicons and fixation of amplicons upon the external surface of the disc, which allows thereafter their detection (according to the method described by Rasmussen et al. 1991, Anal. Biochem. 198: 138-205).

25 The disc according to the invention is used in a diagnostic kit, in a diagnostic and reading device which allows automatically the lecture of a sample preparation of a chemical or biological compound, possibly by a previous treatment of said chemical or biological
30 compound (such as genetic amplification of a nucleotide sequence).

Preferably, said device is a system that combines multiple steps or substeps within an integrated system such as an automatic nucleic acid diagnostic system, which allows the steps of purification of the nucleic acid sequences in a sample, their possible amplification (through known genetic amplification methods), their diagnostic and possibly their quantification.

Preferred embodiments of the present invention will be described in the following non-limiting examples.

Example 1: Detection of DNA on CD

The goal of this experiment was to detect specific DNA by direct hybridization on capture probe bound to CD support. The detection was realized by colorimetric measurement. Capture probe were bound on aminated polycarbonate CD, then hybridization was made with complementary biotinylated DNA and positive hybridization was detected with streptavidin-peroxidase.

1. Amination of polycarbonate of CD

CD were first carboxylated by incubation 30 min in NaOH 1N solution at room temperature. After 3 washes with water, carboxylated CD were incubated in a solution of MES 0.1M pH 6 buffer containing water soluble carbodiimide at 1 mg/ml and N-methylpopane 1-3 diamine at 1 mM during 2 hours at room temperature. After 3 washes in MES 0.1M pH 6 buffer and 3 washes with water, the aminated CDs were dried at 37 °C for 30 min.

2. Fixation of capture probes on aminated CDs

2 solutions were prepared, one containing CMV capture probe and the other containing HIV capture probe. These solutions were MeIM 0.01 M pH 7.5 buffer containing
5 denatured DNA capture probe (CMV or HIV) at a concentration of 2 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ and carbodiimide at a concentration of 1.6 mg/ml.

3 x 20 μl of these solutions were spotted on two aminated CDs and these CDs were incubated at 50 °C for
10 5 hours in a wet atmosphere. After three washes of 5 min with NaOH 0.4 N + Tween 0.25% at 50 °C, these CDs were rinsed 3 times with water and dried at 37 °C for 30 min.

3. Hybridization of CMV biotinylated DNA on CDs

Both CDs were incubated 5 min in NaOH 0.2 N for denaturing capture probe, then rinsed with 0.1 M maleate buffer pH 7.5 with 0.15 M NaCl. These CDs were then incubated in a hybridization solution containing denatured DNA salmon sperm 100 $\mu\text{g/ml}$, SSC 4X, Denhardt 5X
20 and denatured CMV biotinylated DNA at a concentration of 70 ng/ml for 2 hours at 65 °C. After hybridization step, the CDs were washed 3 times with 0.01 M maleate buffer containing 15 mM NaCl and Tween 0.3% at room temperature.

The first CD was then incubated with 0.1 M
25 maleate buffer containing 0.15 M NaCl, 0.1% milk powder and streptavidin-peroxidase 1 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ for 45 min at room temperature. After conjugates incubation, both CDs were washed 3 times with 0.01 M maleate buffer containing 15 mM NaCl and Tween 0.3% at room temperature.

4. Detection of hybridized DNA

The first CD was then incubated for 10 min in TMB solution (Medgenix). A picture was taken of this CD after 1 min of this incubation to see blue color appearing where positive hybridization occurred (Fig. 4). The result can be obtained by absorption of transmitted light through the CD.

Example 2: Detection of DNA on CD with maser detection

The DNA capture probe was spotted on the CD surface and the hybridization with the target DNA were identical to the example 1. For the detection of the biotinylated hybridized DNA, the CD was incubated with 0.1 M maleate buffer containing 0.15 M NaCl, 0.1% milk powder and streptavidin-colloidal gold (Sigma, St-Louis, USA) 1 µg/ml for 45 min at room temperature. The CD was further incubated 30 min in a solution made of equal volume of Solution A and B from Silver enhancement kit (Sigma, St-Louis, USA) in order to have silver precipitate where positive hybridization occurred. This CD was recovered with a gold layer to allow a laser CD player to read information written on the CD and to read the interference due to silver precipitate (Fig. 2 and 3).

Example 3: Detection of protein on CD by light absorption

The CD used were partly inprinted with data on pits and this part was covered with gold. The fixation of the capture molecules was done on the periphery of the CD, directly on the plastic surface.

1. Carboxylation of CD

First CDs were incubated 30 min in NaOH 1 N at room temperature then rinsed 3 times with water and dried at 37 °C for 30 min.

5

2. Fixation of antibodies on CDs

Three different types of antibodies were fixed on the carboxylated CD: antibodies against bovine serum albumin, antibodies against fluoresceine (for
10 negative control) and antibodies against streptavidin (for positive control).

20 µl of three different solutions of borate buffer 0.02 M NaCl pH 8.2 containing carbodiimide (Acros) at 1 mg/ml and one type of the three different antibodies
15 at 10 µg/ml were spotted on three different pieces of CD. These spots were incubated overnight at 4 °C, and then rinsed for 10 min with glycine buffer 0.1 M pH 9.2 containing casein at 0.1%, then twice with glycine buffer 0.1 M pH 9.2 containing Tween 20 at 0.1% for 5 min and
20 finally twice with glycine buffer 0.1 M pH 9.2. The CDs were dried at 37 °C during 30 min.

3. Detection of bovine serum albumin by ELISA technique on CD

25 The CDs were incubated at room temperature with the three different antibodies fixed onto the surface with a solution of serum albumin at 10 µg/ml in PBS containing 0.1% of casein. The incubation was for 90 min. The CDs were rinsed 3 times with PBS containing 0.1% of
30 Tween 20, and then incubated with biotinylated antibodies against serum albumin at 20 µg/ml in PBS containing 0.1% of

casein for 45 min. They were then rinsed 3 times with PBS containing 0.1% of Tween 20, and then incubated for 45 min the CDs in a solution of PBS containing 0.1% of casein and either Streptavidin-peroxidase at 1 μ g/ml. The CDs were
5 rinsed 3 times with PBS containing 0.1% of Tween 20. For detection, the CD where streptavidin-peroxidase was fixed were incubated in a solution of TMB and pictures were taken after 2, 4 and 6 min under camera to see blue color appearing where we had spotted antibodies against BSA and
10 against streptavidin.

Example 4: Detection of proteins on CD with laser detection

The albumin was spotted on the CD surface and the reaction with the antibodies were identical to the
15 example 3. The conjugate used to react against the biotinylated antibodies was a streptavidin-gold. It. was incubated for 45 min in a PBS solution containing 0.1% casein at a concentration of 1 μ g/ml. The streptavidin-gold served as a center for silver reduction. A solution of
20 "silver enhancement" (Sigma) for 15 min at room temperature was used. Silver precipitation was seen at the place where antibodies against BSA and against streptavidin were spotted. A variation in the light absorption was observed, due to the precipitate and the size of the precipitate
25 which are about 1 μ m in diameter. The presence of pits was found by reflection of the laser beam (Fig. 5).

Example 5: Magnetic detection of DNA or protein on CD

Detection of hybridized DNA or protein on CD
30 support can be achieved by magnetic process. Biotin bound to DNA or antibodies can be recognized by streptavidin conjugated to ferro-fluid (Immunicon, Hungtinton Valley,

PA, USA). This conjugate is magnetic or paramagnetic according to the size of ferrite nucleus of the ferro-fluid and can then be detected in a magnetic field (Fig. 7).

CLAIMS

1. Method for the detection and/or the quantification of a target molecule present in a sample, preferably a biological sample, comprising the steps of :
- 5 - allowing a binding between said target molecule and a capture molecule fixed upon the surface of a solid support being a disc comprising registered data, said binding resulting in a signal,
- allowing a detection and/or quantification of said signal
- 10, with the proviso that said signal is not obtained through cleavage of capture molecule.
2. Method according to claim 1, characterized in that the capture and the target molecules are nucleotide sequences.
- 15 3. Method according to claim 1, characterized in that the capture and target molecules are respectively either antigens or antibodies.
4. Method according to claim 1, characterized in that the capture and target molecules are respectively
- 20 either receptors or ligands of said receptors.
5. Method according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the detection and/or the quantification of the signal is obtained by reflection, absorption or diffraction of a light beam,
- 25 preferably a laser beam, or variation of an electromagnetic field.
6. Method according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the detection and/or the quantification of the signal is obtained by a
- 30 fluorescent light emission after excitation of the bound target and capture molecules by a light beam.

7. Method according to any one of the claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the detection and/or the quantification of the signal is obtained by a direct emission of a light beam, a radiation or a magnetic field, 5 which is a result of the binding between the target molecule and its capture molecule.

8. Method according to claim 6 or 7, characterized in that the emission of a light beam is generated by a bound molecule which is selected from the 10 group consisting of molecules having chemo, bio, fluoro, radioactivity and/or electroluminescence light or radiation.

9. Method according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the binding between 15 the target and the capture molecules generates a precipitate, preferably an opaque or magnetic precipitate such as a deposit of a colloidal metal reagent, preferably a silver precipitate, upon the surface of the disc and/or the corrosion of one or more layer(s) of the surface of the 20 disc.

10. Method according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the binding between the target and the non-cleavable capture molecules allows the fixation of one or more molecule(s) used in the 25 detection and/or the quantification of a signal which results from said binding.

11. Method according to claim 10, characterized in that said other molecule is a microbead or a magnetic particle.

30 12. Method according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the signal is obtained when the disc is rotating upon its axis (A).

13. Method according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the registered data of the disc are binary data, preferably grooved binary data.

5 14. Method according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the disc is a compact-disc.

15 15. Method according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the registered data
10 allow the treatment and the interpretation of the signal resulting from the binding between the capture and the target molecules.

16. Method according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the disc comprises
15 micro-channels connected and in fluidic contact.

17. Disc comprising registered data, characterized in that it further comprises, fixed upon its surface, a non-cleavable capture molecule which allows a binding with a target molecule to be detected and/or
20 quantified.

18. Disc according to claim 17, characterized in that the non-cleavable capture and/or the target molecules are selected from the group consisting of nucleic acid molecules, preferably nucleotide sequences, antigens,
25 antibodies, receptors, ligands of receptors, peptidic or proteinic molecules, lipids, saccharides, haptens, fluorophores, chromophores, catalysts, new macromolecules obtained by combinatorial chemistry or a combination thereof.

30 19. Disc according to claim 17 or 18, characterized in that the registered data of the disc are binary data, preferably grooved binary data.

20. Disc according to claim 19, characterized in that it is a compact-disc.

21. Disc according to any one of the claims any of the claims 17 to 21, characterized in that it
5 comprises microchannels connected and in fluidic contact.

22. Preparation process of the disc according to any one of the claims 17 to 21, which comprises the step of a fixation upon the surface of a disc comprising pre-registered data of a non-cleavable capture molecule through
10 a photoactivation of said capture molecule.

23. Process according to claim 22, characterized in that the non-cleavable capture molecule is obtained through a covalent link between an extremity of the capture molecule and the surface layer of the disc.

15 24. Process according to claim 22 or 23, characterized in that the disc surface is recovered by a protective layer, preferably made of organic compound, which allows or improves the protection and stabilization of the non-cleavable capture molecule and/or the
20 protection, stabilization and/or detection of the binding between the target molecule and its non-cleavable capture molecule.

25. Diagnostic kit comprising the disc according to any one of the claims 17 to 21 and the
25 reactants allowing the binding between a target molecule and its capture molecule and possibly the reactants allowing the detection of the signal which results from said binding.

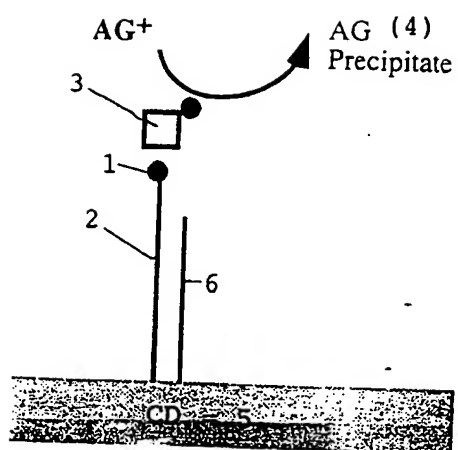
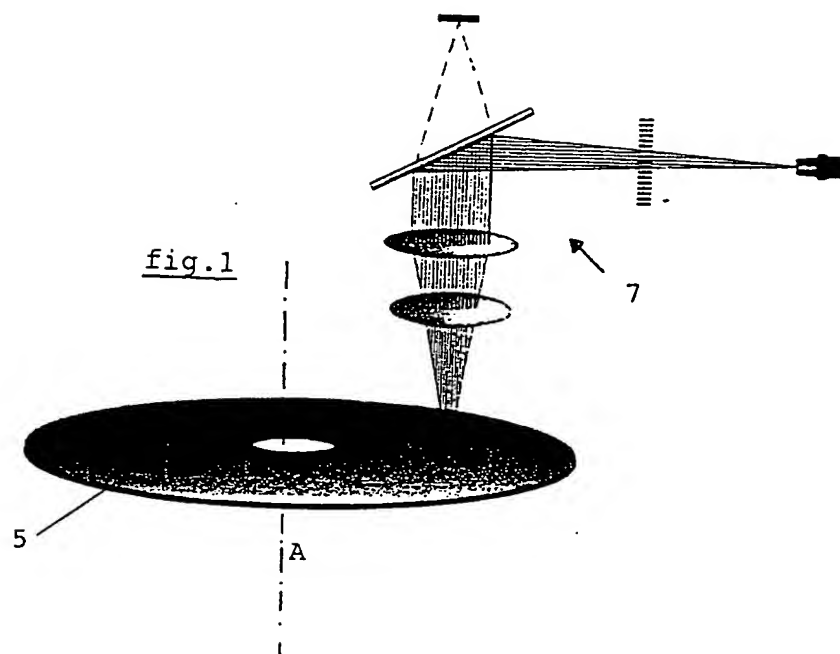
26. Detection and/or reading device which
30 allows the detection and/or the quantification of the signal which results from the binding between a target molecule present in a sample and its capture molecule, and

which comprises the disc according to any one of the claims 17 to 21 or the kit according to claim 25, and means for the detection and/or quantification of said signal.

27. Detection and/or reading device according
5 to claim 26, being a reading compact-disc device.

28. Detection and/or reading device according
to claim 27, characterized in that it comprises a first
reading head for the reading of registered data upon the
disc and a second reading head for the detection and/or the
10 quantification of the signal which results from the binding
between target molecule and its capture molecule.

29. Detection and/or reading device according
to any one of the claims 26 to 28, which comprises
additional means for the purification of the target
15 molecule, the specific cleavage of the target molecule, the
possible genetic amplification of said target molecule
within an integrated detection and/or reading device.

FIG.2

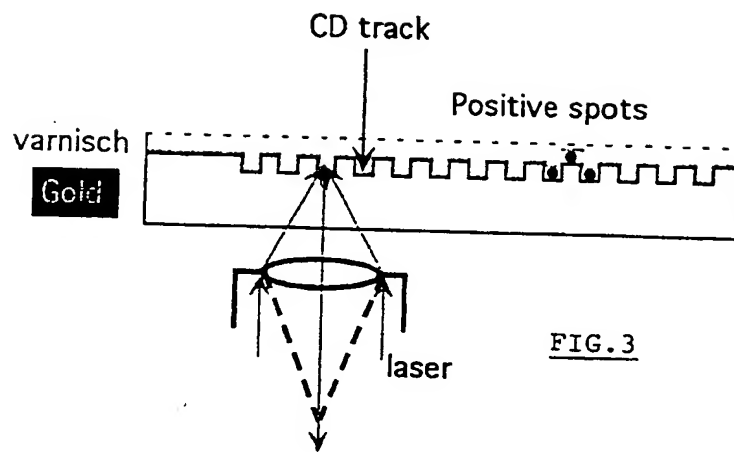


FIG. 3

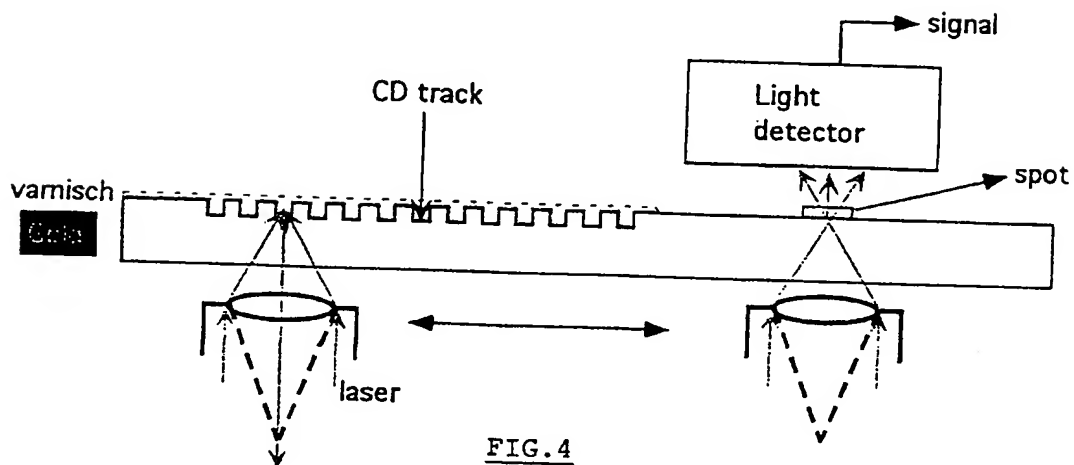


FIG. 4

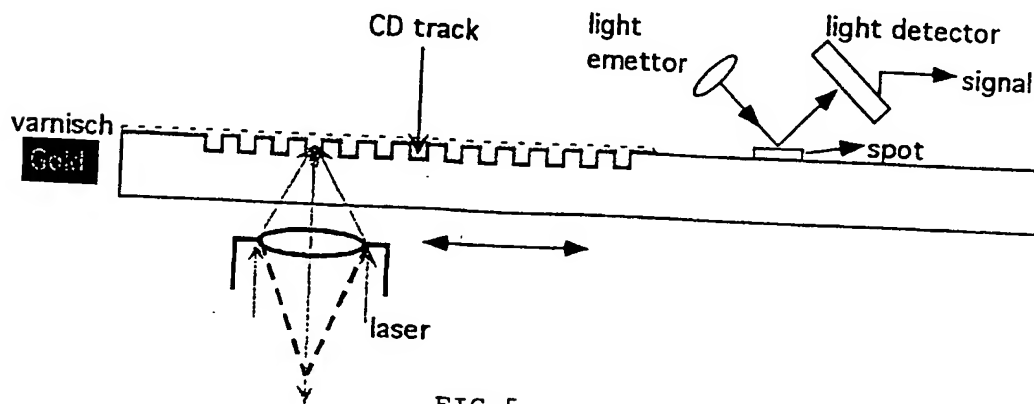


FIG. 5

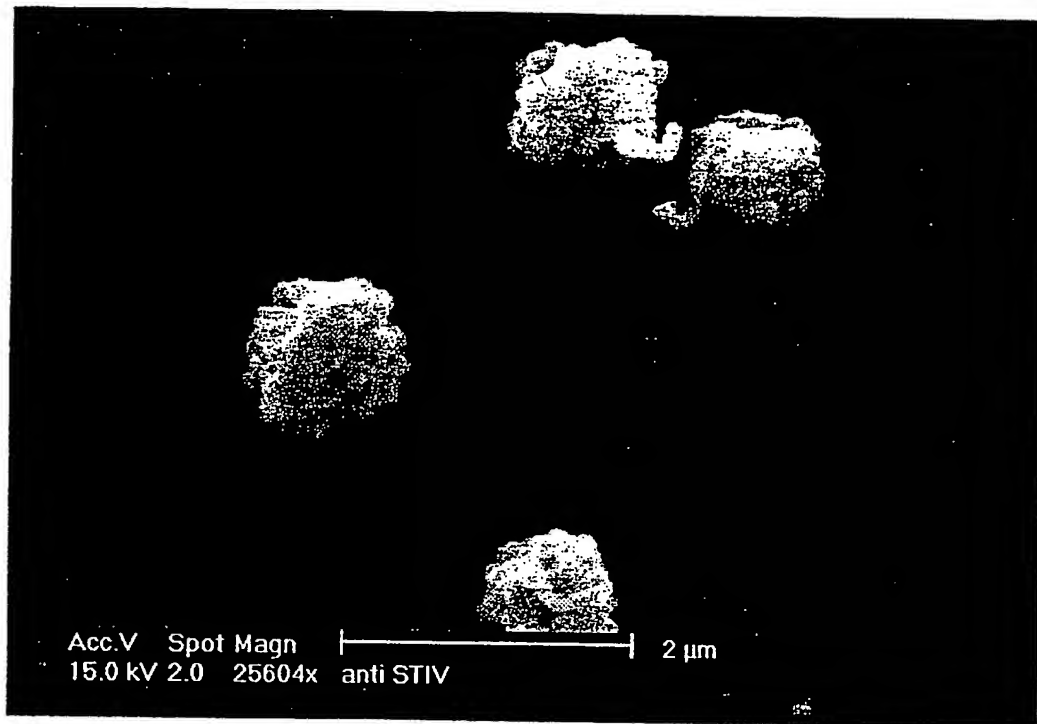


FIG. 6

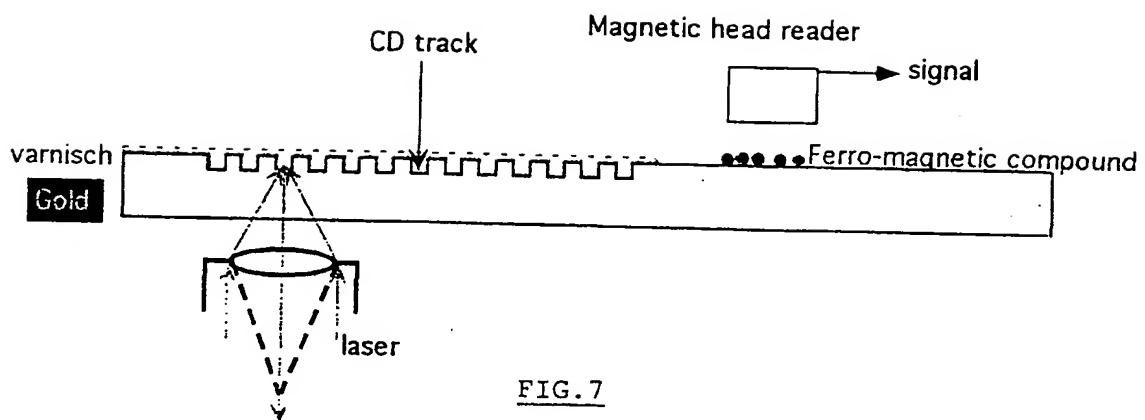


FIG. 7

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/BE 98/00206

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 6 G01N33/543 C12Q1/68

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 G01N C12Q

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
E	EP 0 887 645 A (SUISSE ELECTRONIQUE MICROTECH ;PRIONICS AG (CH); SCHERRER INST PAU) 30 December 1998 see claims; figure 4E see column 8, line 12 - line 18 see page 11, line 51 - page 12, line 7 ---	1-29
P, X	EP 0 886 141 A (SUISSE ELECTRONIQUE MICROTECH ;PRIONICS AG (CH)) 23 December 1998 see claims; figure 4E see column 7, line 46 - line 56 see column 15, line 34 - line 41 --- -/--	1-29

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "Z" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

20 May 1999

Date of mailing of the international search report

01/06/1999

Name and mailing address of the ISA*

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl.
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Routledge, B

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PC1/BE 98/00206

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No. --
P,X	<p>WO 98 15356 A (GORDON JOHN FRANCIS ;MOLECULAR DRIVES LIMITED (GB)) 16 April 1998 see claims see page 3, line 15 - line 16 see page 6, line 11 - line 24 see page 7, line 33 - page 8, line 15 see page 12, line 21 - page 13, line 19; figure 3 see page 18, line 16 - line 22 -----</p>	1-29
P,X	<p>WO 98 12559 A (DEMERS JAMES P) 26 March 1998 see claims 2,5 see page 7, paragraph 2 see page 8, paragraph 3 - page 9, paragraph 1 see page 15, paragraph 2 - page 18, paragraph 2 -----</p>	1-29
X	<p>WO 97 21090 A (GAMERA BIOSCIENCE) 12 June 1997 cited in the application see claims 1,14-21,30-63 see page 6, line 2 - line 7 see page 11, line 2 - line 28 see page 28, line 11 - page 29, line 14 see page 52, line 3 - page 53, line 30 -----</p>	1-29
X	<p>WO 96 09548 A (GORDON JOHN FRANCIS ;UNIV DUNDEE (GB)) 28 March 1996 see claims see page 4, line 14 - page 5, line 8 see page 6, line 3 - line 17 see page 11, line 5 - line 20 see page 14, line 5 - line 18 -----</p>	1-29

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/BE 98/00206

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 0887645	A	30-12-1998	EP 0886141 A	23-12-1998
EP 0886141	A	23-12-1998	EP 0887645 A	30-12-1998
WO 9815356	A	16-04-1998	AU 4564297 A	05-05-1998
WO 9812559	A	26-03-1998	AU 4428497 A	14-04-1998
WO 9721090	A	12-06-1997	AU 702403 B	18-02-1999
			AU 1283397 A	27-06-1997
			CA 2239613 A	12-06-1997
			EP 0865606 A	23-09-1998
			NO 982563 A	05-08-1998
			AU 4144897 A	06-03-1998
			WO 9807019 A	19-02-1998
WO 9609548	A	28-03-1996	AU 3481595 A	09-04-1996
			BR 9509021 A	30-12-1997
			CA 2200562 A	28-03-1996
			CN 1158659 A	03-09-1997
			EP 0782705 A	09-07-1997
			JP 10504397 T	28-04-1998
			US 5892577 A	06-04-1999

**This Page is Inserted by IFW Indexing and Scanning
Operations and is not part of the Official Record**

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images include but are not limited to the items checked:

- ☐ BLACK BORDERS
- ☐ IMAGE CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- ☐ FADED TEXT OR DRAWING
- ☐ BLURRED OR ILLEGIBLE TEXT OR DRAWING
- ☐ SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- ☒ COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS
- ☐ GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS
- ☐ LINES OR MARKS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
- ☐ REFERENCE(S) OR EXHIBIT(S) SUBMITTED ARE POOR QUALITY
- ☐ OTHER: _____

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

As rescanning these documents will not correct the image problems checked, please do not report these problems to the IFW Image Problem Mailbox.